

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. - 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A method of encoding a video signal representing a sequence of pictures to form an encoded video signal, the method comprising:

- generating an error concealment algorithm type indicator for ~~the~~a picture or a part thereof ~~independent of an encoding mode for the picture~~, the error concealment algorithm type indicator for providing an indication of a type of error concealment algorithm, said indication to be used ~~in a corresponding decoding process for the picture or said part thereof~~ as the basis for ~~independently choosing, in a corresponding decoding process~~, a particular error concealment algorithm of the type indicated ~~from within a set of error concealment algorithms of the type indicated~~ available to the corresponding decoding process, ~~the choice being independent of the encoding mode of the picture~~; and
- providing the error concealment algorithm type indicator for use in the corresponding decoding process separate from an indication of an encoding mode for the picture.

16. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~15~~67, comprising: ~~comparing a first picture of the sequence with a second picture of the sequence, calculating a measure of similarity between the first and second pictures, comparing the measure of similarity with a predetermined criterion of similarity, and, when the measure of similarity does not meet the predetermined criterion of similarity, providing~~

- ~~generating an~~ the error concealment ~~method~~algorithm type indicator to ~~indicating~~ that a non-temporally-predictive error concealment ~~method~~algorithm should be used in the corresponding decoding process for the first picture or said part thereof, when an error occurs when the measure of similarity does not meet the predetermined criterion of similarity; and,

- ~~when the measure of similarity meets the predetermined criterion of similarity, providing~~ generating an ~~the error concealment method~~ algorithm type indicator to ~~indicating~~ that a temporally-predictive error concealment method ~~algorithm~~ should be used in the corresponding decoding process for the first picture or said part thereof ~~when an error occurs~~ when the measure of similarity meets the predetermined criterion of similarity.

17. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 16, ~~wherein~~ comprising updating the error concealment ~~method~~ algorithm type indicator ~~is updated~~ when the measure of similarity does not meet the predetermined criterion of similarity.

18. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~15~~ 16, ~~wherein~~ comprising including the error concealment ~~method~~ algorithm type indicator ~~is included~~ in a picture header.

19. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~15~~ 16, ~~wherein~~ comprising encoding the video signal ~~is encoded~~ according to the H.263 standard and including the error concealment ~~method~~ algorithm type indicator ~~is included~~ in the Supplemental Enhancement Information of the standard.

20. (Currently amended) A method ~~of encoding a video signal~~ according to claim 16, ~~wherein~~ comprising updating the error concealment algorithm type indicator when the measure of similarity does not meet the predetermined criterion of similarity, and leaving the error concealment ~~method~~ algorithm type indicator ~~is updated and unchanged~~ when the measure of similarity meets the predetermined criterion of similarity, ~~the error concealment method indicator is unchanged.~~

21. (Currently amended) A method of decoding an encoded video signal representing a sequence of pictures, the method comprising:

- receiving an ~~independently generated~~ error concealment algorithm type indicator for a picture or a part thereof, the error concealment algorithm type indicator ~~having been~~

~~generated independent of~~ being separate from an indication of an encoding mode for the picture;

- using the received error concealment algorithm type indicator as the basis for ~~independently choosing a particular error concealment algorithm of the type indicated from within a set of available error concealment algorithms of the type indicated, the choice being independent of the encoding mode for the picture; and~~
- applying the chosen error concealment algorithm to conceal an error in the picture or said part thereof.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) An apparatus for encoding a video signal representing a sequence of pictures to form an encoded video signal, the apparatus being configured to:

- generate an error concealment algorithm type indicator for a picture or a part thereof ~~independent of an encoding mode for the picture~~, the error concealment algorithm type indicator for providing an indication of a type of error concealment algorithm, said indication to be used ~~in a corresponding decoding process for the picture or said part thereof~~ as the basis for ~~independently choosing, in a corresponding decoding process,~~ a particular error concealment algorithm of the type indicated ~~from within a set of error concealment algorithms of the type indicated~~ available to the corresponding decoding process, ~~the choice being independent of the encoding mode of the picture; and~~
- provide the error concealment algorithm type indicator for use in the corresponding decoding process separate from an indication of an encoding mode for the picture.

24. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~23~~71, wherein the apparatus is ~~arranged~~configured to: ~~compare a first picture of the sequence with a second picture of the sequence, calculate a measure of similarity between the first and second pictures, compare the measure of similarity with a predetermined criterion of similarity, and,~~

- ~~when the measure of similarity does not meet the predetermined criterion of similarity,~~ to provide ~~generate an~~ the error concealment ~~method~~algorithm type indicator to indicating that a non-temporally-predictive error concealment ~~method~~algorithm should

be used in the corresponding decoding process for the first picture or said part thereof ~~when an error occurs~~ when the measure of similarity does not meet the predetermined criterion of similarity; and;

- ~~when the measure of similarity meets the predetermined criterion of similarity, to provide~~ generate an ~~the error concealment method~~ algorithm type ~~indicator to indicate~~ that a temporally-predictive error concealment method algorithm should be used in the corresponding decoding process for the first picture or said part thereof ~~when an error occurs~~ when the measure of similarity meets the predetermined criterion of similarity.

25. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the apparatus is ~~arranged~~ configured to update the error concealment ~~method~~ algorithm type indicator when the measure of similarity does not meet the predetermined criterion of similarity, ~~and to leave the error concealment method indicator unchanged when the measure of similarity meets the predetermined criterion~~.

26. (Currently amended) An apparatus for decoding an encoded video signal representing a sequence of pictures, the apparatus being configured to:

- receive an ~~independently generated~~ error concealment algorithm type indicator for a picture or a part thereof, the error concealment algorithm type indicator ~~having been generated independent of~~ being separate from an indication of an encoding mode for the picture;
- use the received error concealment algorithm type indicator as the basis for ~~independently~~ choosing a particular error concealment algorithm of the type indicated ~~from within a set of available error concealment algorithms of the type indicated, the choice being independent of the encoding mode for the picture~~; and
- apply the chosen error concealment algorithm to conceal an error in the picture or said part thereof.

27. (Currently amended) A portable radio communications device including at least one of an apparatus for encoding a video signal representing a sequence of pictures to form an

encoded video signal and an apparatus for decoding an encoded video signal representing a sequence of pictures, the apparatus for encoding a video signal being configured to:

- generate an error concealment algorithm type indicator for a picture or a part thereof ~~independent of an encoding mode for the picture~~, the error concealment algorithm type indicator for providing an indication of a type of error concealment algorithm, said indication to be used ~~in a corresponding decoding process for the picture or said part thereof~~ as the basis for ~~independently choosing, in a corresponding decoding process~~, a particular error concealment algorithm of the type indicated ~~from within a set of error concealment algorithms of the type indicated~~ available to the corresponding decoding process, ~~the choice being independent of the encoding mode of the picture~~; and
- provide the error concealment algorithm type indicator for use in the corresponding decoding process separate from an indication of an encoding mode for the picture, and

the apparatus for decoding an encoded video signal being configured to:

- receive an ~~independently generated~~ error concealment algorithm type indicator for a picture or a part thereof, the error concealment algorithm type indicator ~~having been generated independent of~~ being separate from an indication of an encoding mode for the picture;
- use the received error concealment algorithm type indicator as the basis for ~~independently choosing~~ a particular error concealment algorithm of the type indicated ~~from within a set of available error concealment algorithms of the type indicated, the choice being independent of the encoding mode for the picture~~; and
- apply the chosen error concealment algorithm to conceal an error in the picture or said part thereof.

28. (Currently amended) An encoded video signal representing a sequence of pictures, the encoded video signal including an error concealment algorithm type indicator for a picture or a part thereof, the error concealment algorithm type indicator being ~~independent of~~ separate from an indication of an encoding mode for the picture, and providing an indication of a type of error concealment algorithm to be used ~~in a corresponding decoding process for the picture or said part thereof~~ as the basis for ~~independently choosing, in a corresponding decoding process~~, a particular error concealment algorithm of the type indicated ~~from within a set of~~

~~error concealment algorithms of the type indicated~~ available to the corresponding decoding process, ~~the choice being independent of the encoding mode of the picture.~~

29. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 16, ~~wherein the sequence of pictures includes a number of different scenes, each scene comprising pictures which meet the predetermined criterion of similarity, and the error concealment method indicator is~~comprising using a scene identifier associated with the scenes as the error concealment algorithm type indicator, the scene identifier having the same value for all pictures of a scene, the scene identifier having a different value for each different scene.

30. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 16, ~~wherein the sequence of pictures includes a number of different scenes, each scene comprising pictures which meet the predetermined criterion of similarity, and the error concealment method indicator is~~comprising using a scene identifier associated with the scenes as the error concealment algorithm type indicator, the scene identifier having one of two values, with pictures from adjacent scenes having non-identical scene identifier values.

31. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~15~~16, ~~wherein~~comprising including the error concealment ~~method~~algorithm type indicator ~~is included~~ in a picture segment header and/or a macroblock header.

32. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~15~~16, ~~wherein~~comprising generating the error concealment ~~method~~algorithm type indicator to indicates a type of error concealment algorithm to be applied ~~for~~to a specified rectangular area of a picture.

33. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 32, comprising ~~providing~~generating multiple error concealment ~~method~~algorithm type indicators for a picture, each error concealment ~~method~~algorithm type indicator being specifying ~~ing~~ a type of error concealment to be applied for one of a plurality of non-overlapping rectangular areas of the picture.

34. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~2168~~, ~~wherein comprising~~ obtaining the error concealment ~~method~~algorithm type indicator ~~is included in from~~ a picture header.

35. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~2168~~, ~~wherein comprising~~ receiving the video signal ~~is encoded according to the H.263 standard, decoding the encoded video signal according to the H.263 standard and obtaining the error concealment method~~algorithm type indicator ~~is included in from~~ the Supplemental Enhancement Information of the standard.

36. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~2168~~, ~~wherein the sequence of pictures includes a number of different scenes and the error concealment method indicator is comprising using a scene identifier associated with the scenes as the error concealment algorithm type indicator~~, the scene identifier having the same value for all pictures of a scene, the scene identifier having a different value for each different scene.

37. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~2168~~, ~~wherein the sequence of pictures includes a number of different scenes and the error concealment method indicator is comprising using a scene identifier associated with the scenes as the error concealment algorithm type indicator~~, the scene identifier having one of two values, with pictures from adjacent scenes having non-identical scene identifier values.

38. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~2168~~, ~~wherein comprising~~ obtaining the error concealment ~~method~~algorithm type indicator ~~is included in from~~ a picture segment header ~~and/or~~ a macroblock header.

39. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~2168~~, ~~wherein comprising using~~ the error concealment ~~method~~algorithm type indicator as an indication of a type of error concealment algorithm to be applied ~~for to~~ a specified rectangular area of a picture.

40. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 39, ~~wherein comprising receiving~~ multiple error concealment ~~method~~algorithm type indicators ~~are provided for a picture, each~~ error concealment ~~method~~algorithm type indicator being specifying a type of error concealment to be applied for one of a plurality of non-overlapping rectangular areas of the picture and correspondingly applying a respective error concealment algorithm.

41. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 36, ~~wherein when an error occurs when decoding a picture, the method comprises~~ing comparing a scene identifier for ~~the a~~ picture with a scene identifier for a temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture and, ~~if the scene identifier for the picture is the same as the scene identifier for the temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture,~~ applying a temporally-predictive error concealment algorithm in the decoding process for the picture when the scene identifier for the picture is the same as the scene identifier for the temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture.

42. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 37, ~~wherein when an error occurs when decoding a picture, the method comprises~~ing comparing a scene identifier for ~~the a~~ picture with a scene identifier for a temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture and, ~~if the scene identifier for the picture is the same as the scene identifier for the temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture,~~ applying a temporally-predictive error concealment algorithm in the decoding process for the picture when the scene identifier for the picture is the same as the scene identifier for the temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture.

43. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 36, ~~wherein when an error occurs when decoding a picture, the method comprises~~ing comparing a scene identifier for ~~the a~~ picture with a scene identifier for a temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture and, ~~if the scene identifier for the picture is different from the scene identifier for the temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture,~~ applying a spatial non-temporally-predictive error concealment ~~method~~algorithm in the decoding process for the picture when the scene identifier for the picture is different from the scene identifier for the temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture.

44. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 37, ~~wherein when an error occurs when decoding a picture, the method comprises~~ing comparing a scene identifier for thea picture with a scene identifier for a temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture and, if the scene identifier for the picture is different from the scene identifier for the temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture, applying a ~~spatial non-temporally-predictive~~ error concealment ~~method~~algorithm in the decoding process for the picture when the scene identifier for the picture is different from the scene identifier for the temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture.

45. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~23~~24, wherein the apparatus is ~~arranged~~configured to include the error concealment ~~method~~algorithm type indicator in a picture header.

46. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~23~~24, wherein the apparatus is ~~arranged~~configured to encode the video signal according to the H.263 standard and to include the error concealment ~~method~~algorithm type indicator in the Supplemental Enhancement Information of the standard.

47. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the ~~sequence of pictures includes a number of different scenes, each scene comprising pictures which meet the predetermined criterion of similarity, and the error concealment method indicator~~is~~apparatus is configured to use a scene identifier associated with the scenes as the error concealment algorithm type indicator, the scene identifier having the same value for all pictures of a scene, the scene identifier having a different value for each different scene.~~

48. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the ~~sequence of pictures includes a number of different scenes, each scene comprising pictures which meet the predetermined criterion of similarity, and the error concealment method indicator~~is~~apparatus is configured to use a scene identifier associated with the scenes as the error concealment algorithm type indicator, the scene identifier having one of two values, with pictures from adjacent scenes having non-identical scene identifier values.~~

49. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~23~~24, wherein the apparatus is ~~arranged~~configured to include the error concealment ~~method~~algorithm type indicator in a picture segment header and/or a macroblock header.

50. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~23~~24, wherein the apparatus is configured to generate the error concealment ~~method~~algorithm type indicator to indicates a type of error concealment algorithm to be applied ~~for~~to a specified rectangular area of a picture.

51. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 50, wherein the apparatus is ~~arranged~~configured to provide multiple error concealment ~~method~~algorithm type indicators for a picture, each error concealment ~~method~~algorithm type indicator being specifying a type of error concealment to be applied for~~to~~ one of a plurality of non-overlapping rectangular areas of the picture.

52. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~26~~72, wherein the apparatus is configured to obtain the error concealment ~~method~~algorithm type indicator ~~is included in~~from a picture header.

53. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~26~~72, wherein the apparatus is configured to receive a video signal ~~is encoded according to the H.263 standard, decode the encoded video signal according to the H.263 standard and the~~ obtain the error concealment ~~method~~algorithm type indicator ~~is included in~~from the Supplemental Enhancement Information of the standard.

54. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~26~~72, wherein the ~~sequence of pictures includes a number of different scenes and the error concealment method indicator~~ is~~apparatus is configured to use a scene identifier associated with the scenes~~as the error

concealment algorithm type indicator, the scene identifier having the same value for all pictures of a scene, the scene identifier having a different value for each different scene.

55. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~26~~72, wherein ~~the sequence of pictures includes a number of different scenes and the error concealment method indicator~~ is apparatus is configured to use a scene identifier associated with the scenes as the error concealment algorithm type indicator, the scene identifier having one of two values, with pictures from adjacent scenes having non-identical scene identifier values.

56. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~26~~72, wherein the apparatus is configured to obtain the error concealment method algorithm type indicator is included in from a picture segment header ~~and/or~~ a macroblock header.

57. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~26~~72, wherein the apparatus is configured to use the error concealment method algorithm type indicator as an indication of a type of error concealment algorithm to be applied ~~for to~~ a specified rectangular area of a picture.

58. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 57, wherein the apparatus is configured to receive multiple error concealment method algorithm type indicators are provided for a picture, each error concealment method algorithm type indicator being specifying a type of error concealment to be applied for to one of a plurality of non-overlapping rectangular areas of the picture and to correspondingly apply a respective error concealment algorithm.

59. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 54, wherein ~~when an error occurs when decoding a picture, the apparatus is arranged~~ configured to compare a scene identifier for ~~the~~ a picture with a scene identifier for a temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture and, ~~if the scene identifier for the picture is the same as the scene identifier for the temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture, the apparatus is arranged to apply a temporally-predictive error concealment algorithm in the decoding process for the picture~~

when the scene identifier for the picture is the same as the scene identifier for the temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture.

60. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 55, wherein ~~when an error occurs when decoding a picture,~~ the apparatus is arranged/configured to compare a scene identifier for ~~the~~a picture with a scene identifier for a temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture and, ~~if the scene identifier for the picture is the same as the scene identifier for the temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture,~~ the apparatus is arranged to apply a temporally-predictive error concealment algorithm in the decoding process for the picture when the scene identifier for the picture is the same as the scene identifier for the temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture.

61. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 54, wherein ~~when an error occurs when decoding a picture,~~ the apparatus is arranged/configured to compare a scene identifier for ~~the~~a picture with a scene identifier for a temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture and, ~~if the scene identifier for the picture is different from the scene identifier for the temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture,~~ the apparatus is arranged to apply a spatial/non-temporally-predictive error concealment ~~method~~algorithm in the decoding process for the picture when the scene identifier for the picture is different from the scene identifier for the temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture.

62. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 55, wherein ~~when an error occurs when decoding a picture,~~ the apparatus is arranged/configured to compare a scene identifier for ~~the~~a picture with a scene identifier for a temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture and, ~~if the scene identifier for the picture is different from the scene identifier for the temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture,~~ the apparatus is arranged to apply a spatial/non-temporally-predictive error concealment ~~method~~algorithm in the decoding process for the picture when the scene identifier for the picture is different from the scene identifier for the temporally neighboring correctly decoded picture.

63. (Currently amended) An apparatus for encoding a video signal representing a sequence of pictures to form an encoded video signal, the apparatus comprising:

- means for generating an error concealment algorithm type indicator for a picture or a part thereof ~~independent of an encoding mode for the picture~~, the error concealment algorithm type indicator for providing an indication of a type of error concealment algorithm, said indication to be used ~~in a corresponding decoding process for the picture or said part thereof~~ as the basis for ~~independently choosing, in a corresponding decoding process,~~ a particular error concealment algorithm of the type indicated ~~from within a set of error concealment algorithms of the type indicated~~ available to the corresponding decoding process, ~~the choice being independent of the encoding mode of the picture~~; and
- means for providing the error concealment algorithm type indicator for use in the corresponding decoding process separate from an indication of an encoding mode for the picture.

64. (Currently amended) An apparatus for decoding an encoded video signal representing a sequence of pictures, the apparatus comprising:

- means for receiving an ~~independently generated~~ error concealment algorithm type indicator for a picture or a part thereof, the error concealment algorithm type indicator ~~having been generated independent of~~ being separate from an indication of an encoding mode for the picture;
- means for using the received error concealment algorithm type indicator as the basis for ~~independently choosing~~ a particular error concealment algorithm of the type indicated ~~from within a set of available error concealment algorithms of the type indicated, the choice being independent of the encoding mode for the picture~~; and
- means for applying the chosen error concealment algorithm to conceal an error in the picture or said part thereof.

65. (New) A method according to claim 15, comprising generating the error concealment algorithm type indicator to indicate either a temporally-predictive or a non-temporally-predictive type of error concealment algorithm.

66. (New) A method according to claim 15, comprising generating the error concealment algorithm type indicator by:
- comparing a first picture of the sequence or a part thereof with a second picture of the sequence;
 - calculating a measure of similarity between the first picture or said part thereof and said second picture; and
 - comparing the measure of similarity with a predetermined criterion of similarity.
67. (New) A method according to claim 65, comprising generating the error concealment algorithm type indicator by:
- comparing a first picture of the sequence or a part thereof with a second picture of the sequence;
 - calculating a measure of similarity between the first picture or said part thereof and said second picture; and
 - comparing the measure of similarity with a predetermined criterion of similarity.
68. (New) A method according to claim 21, comprising using the error concealment algorithm type indicator as an indication of either a temporally-predictive or a non-temporally-predictive type of error concealment algorithm.
69. (New) An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the apparatus is configured to generate the error concealment algorithm type indicator to indicate either a temporally-predictive or a non-temporally-predictive type of error concealment algorithm.
70. (New) An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the apparatus is configured to generate the error concealment algorithm type indicator by:
- comparing a first picture of the sequence or a part thereof with a second picture of the sequence;
 - calculating a measure of similarity between the first picture or said part thereof and said second picture; and

- comparing the measure of similarity with a predetermined criterion of similarity.
71. (New) An apparatus according to claim 69, wherein the apparatus is configured to generate the error concealment algorithm type indicator by:
- comparing a first picture of the sequence or a part thereof with a second picture of the sequence;
 - calculating a measure of similarity between the first picture or said part thereof and said second picture; and
 - comparing the measure of similarity with a predetermined criterion of similarity.
72. (New) An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the apparatus is configured to use the error concealment algorithm type indicator as an indication of either a temporally-predictive or a non-temporally-predictive type of error concealment algorithm.
73. (New) An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the apparatus is configured to update the error concealment algorithm type indicator when the measure of similarity does not meet the predetermined criterion of similarity, and to leave the error concealment algorithm type indicator unchanged when the measure of similarity meets the predetermined criterion of similarity.
74. (New) An apparatus for encoding a video signal representing a sequence of pictures to form an encoded video signal, the apparatus comprising one or more functional units for:
- generating an error concealment algorithm type indicator for a picture or a part thereof, the error concealment algorithm type indicator for providing an indication of a type of error concealment algorithm, said indication to be used as the basis for choosing, in a corresponding decoding process, a particular error concealment algorithm of the type indicated available to the corresponding decoding process; and
 - providing the error concealment algorithm type indicator for use in the corresponding decoding process separate from an indication of an encoding mode for the picture.

75. (New) An apparatus for decoding an encoded video signal representing a sequence of pictures, the apparatus comprising one or more functional units for:

- receiving an error concealment algorithm type indicator for a picture or a part thereof, the error concealment algorithm type indicator being separate from an indication of an encoding mode for the picture;
- using the received error concealment algorithm type indicator as the basis for choosing a particular error concealment algorithm of the type indicated; and
- applying the chosen error concealment algorithm to conceal an error in the picture or said part thereof.